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Rep. Sanfelippo to introduce bill to expand an Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Program

As a result of recommendations from the Speakers Task Force on Mental Health, Rep. Joe Sanfelippo (R-West Allis) will be introducing a bill to expand an Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Program throughout Wisconsin to assist individuals experiencing mental illness or developmental disabilities in becoming gainfully employed.

IPS was originally developed at Dartmouth College Psychiatric Research Center. According to their IPS website, IPS is 3 times more likely to succeed in helping those experiencing mental illness compete in the workforce than other approaches.

“Studies show that employment is a key factor in recovery for those experiencing mental illness. Research shows that two out of three people experiencing mental illness are interested in being employed, but only one in ten are gainfully employed,” said Rep Sanfelippo.

The bill will provide funding to create a regional infrastructure to promote implementing IPS as well as providing incentives for benefits counseling.

“I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this bipartisan recommendation, which paves the way for individuals experiencing mental illness to enter the workforce.”

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